

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SIL-01 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

OES-05 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-02 TAR-01 SS-15

NSC-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 /121 W
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R 101102Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9414

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, XG, NO

SUBJ: GENEVA EAST WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

REF OSLO 0962

1. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES PRESS AND TV COVERAGE

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OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE, AS SUPPLEMENT TO REFTEL.

2. NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT TOR ASPENGREN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN INTERVIEW FROM GENEVA CARRIED IN LABOR PRESS MARCH 3. HE CONCEDED THAT AGREEMENT ON A STRONGER COMMITMENT TO PURSUE WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AT THE CONFERENCE, PLUS A CONCRETE AGREEMENT THAT A NEW CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD, WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE. MORE IMPORTANT, HE SAID, WAS THAT CONFERENCE REVEALED BROAD CONSENSUS AMONG EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS ON NECESSITY OF COOPERATION TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. AND THAT HARDLY ANYONE OPPOSED NEW CONFERENCE. BY THEN HE BELIEVED TIME WOULD BE RIPE TO DISCUSS FIRMER RULES FOR SUBSTANTIVE FOLLOW-UP, ADOPT MORE CONCRETE MEASURES AND, AT SAME TIME, SEE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS WHOLE; NOT SINGLE OUT ONLY WORK ENVIRONMENT (HEALTH, SAFETY, JOB SATISFACTION, ETC.) BUT DEAL ALSO WITH ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AFFECTING WORKERS OUTSIDE THE WORKPLACE. ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT ASPENGREN HAD STRESSED NEED FOR TRADE UNION COOPERATION TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY LONG-DISTANCE POLLUTION KILLING FISH (I.E., IN NORWEGIAN LAKES AND STREAMS). ARTICLE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ASPENGREN HAD REJECTED SHELEPIN'S DIFFERENTIATION OF WORK ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS IN "CAPITALIST" AND "SOCIALIST" STATES; ASPENGREN SAID PROBLEMS WERE SAME IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND NEEDED TO BE ATTACKED IN SAME WAYS. ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR ISSUES AT CONFERENCE WAS WHETHER TO MAKE COMMITMENT TO HOLD ANOTHER CONFERENCE, THAT WEST GERMAN DGB WAS MOST RELUCTANT, THAT WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD IT UNDER LO AUSPICES WAS FACTOR. THIS COULD SEEM UNIMPORTANT SAID ARTICLE WRITER, BUT LINKED TO ICFTU RULES FORBIDDING MULTILATERAL (AS OPPOSED TO BILATERAL) EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONTACTS EXCEPT IN ILO FRAMEWORK. ARTICLE SAID SOVIETS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SERIES OF CONFERENCES

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AND SEMINARS, REQUIRING A PERMANENT SECRETARIATE, WHICH WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS FAR AS ICFTU MEMBERS WERE CONCERNED.

2. IN SHORT TV INTERVIEW, ASPENGREN EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH CONFERENCE, BUT SOME DISILLUSIONMENT THAT TRADE UNIONISTS FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EASTERN EUROPEAN, HAD NOT

ACCEPTED IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING EXTERNAL AS
WELL AS WORK ENVIROMENT.
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